premises from April this year.

Export of Marine Products

@*332. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of marine products was given a special thrust during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, what were the areas of thrust together with the comparative details of actual achievements year-wise during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The areas of thrust for increasing export of marine products during the 7th Five Year Plan were:

(i) Promotion of prawn farming for augmenting production of cultured prawns.

(ii) Setting up prawn hatcheries and seed banks.

(iii) Promotion of value added items like IQF (individually quick frozen) prawns.

(iv) Modernisation of processing facilities and quality upgradation.

(v) Aggressive market promotion measures.

(vi) Development of Deep Sea Fishing.

The comparative details of actual achievements of exports of Marine Products, year-wise during the 7th Five Year Plan period were:

Year	Quantity (in tonnes)	Value (in Rs. Crores)
1985-86	83651	398.00
1986-87	85843	460.67
1987-88	97179	531.20
1988-89	99777	597.85
1989-90 (Provisional)	106840	622.46

(Source: MPEDA, Cochin.)

Supply of hybrid seeds by Pepsi

*333. SHRI N.E. BALARAM:
SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of 7th May, 1990 captioned 'Farmers sour with Pepsi';

(b) whether it is a fact that in their original application, Pepsi had stated that they would supply hybrid seeds to the farmers that would improve the quality of the fruits and increase the yield per acre;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the yield per acre of tomatoes grown under Pepsi expertise in Punjab is only 3 tonnes as against the expected 15 tonnes per acre, which has resulted in heavy losses to the farmer;

(d) whether these losses to the farmers will be compensated by Pepsi Foods; and

(e) whether Government will now allow Pepsi Foods to go ahead with soft drinks notwithstanding the fact that the main part of the project in fruit processing and exports has failed?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In a detailed cover note on the proposed project, M/s. Punjab Agro Industries Corporation at the time of submission of the original application had *inter alia* stated as follows:

@Previously starred Question 252 transferred from the 18th May, 1990.

"An appropriate seed programme to rapidly multiply consistently high quality seeds for wide distribution to farmers will be established."

(c) and (d) While the Government of India do not have information in regard to the yield per acre of individual farmers who are growing tomatoes under the Pepsi expertise, it has been reported by M/s. Punjab Agro Industries Corporation that some of the farmers who are cultivating tomatoes under the contract growing programme of Pepsi Foods Private Ltd. have got yields in excess of 30 tonnes per acre.

(e) The manufacture of soft drinks concerntrate by M/s. Pepsi Foods Private Ltd. will be governed by the conditions in the letter of Intent.

ASSOCHAM Suggestions for increasing Exports

*334. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a letter dated the 8th May, 1990 from the President of ASSOCHAM suggesting steps to increase exports;

(b) if so, what are the major recommendations made therein;

(c) how much increase in exports in terms of money is anticipated five years from now if these recommendations are put into effect; and

(d) what action Government propose to take on the above recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Major recommendations made by the ASSOCHAM include diversification of export structure; strengthening of infrastructural facilities; expansion of amount of pre-shipment or post-shipment credit, CCS, duty draw-back etc; stability in fiscal policies be ensured for five years to increase export of agro-industrial products; duty free import of plant and equipment for export production of agro-industrial items; adequate and regular flow of funds to Engineering Export Promotion Council to settle IPRS claims of engineering industry; encouraging leather imports by Government agencies for supply to manufacturer-exporter, etc.

(c) As exports are affected by various national and international factors and the suggestions made by ASSOCHAM are quite general in nature, it is difficult to quantify the additional exports that would accrue as a result of these suggestions.

(d) The Government is already aware of the needs of the exporters and the problems faced by them. However the suggestions made by ASSOCHAM have been noted for implementation to the extent possible under the overall strategy of the Government on export promotion.

Raising of incidental credit facilities for farmers, landless workers and artisans

*335. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to raise incidental credit facilities up to 50 per cent under a time bound programme in favour of small and marginal farmers as also landless workers and artisans; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) Presumably, the Hon'ble Members desire to know whether the banks' lending to small and marginal farmers, landless cultivators and artisans would be accelerated to achieve a prescribed target. In this connection, it may be stated that banks have been asked to raise the proportion of their credit to priority sector to 40% of their